AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:
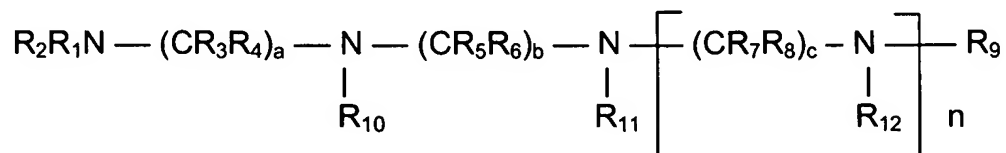
Please amend the Claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of treating ~~or preventing~~ pancreatitis comprising administering to a patient an effective amount of a compound of formula (I):

$$R_2R_1N - (CR_3R_4)_a - \underset{\underset{R_{10}}{|}}{N} - (CR_5R_6)_b - \underset{\underset{R_{11}}{|}}{N} - \left[(CR_7R_8)_c - \underset{\underset{R_{12}}{|}}{N} \right]_n - R_9$$

wherein: each of a, b and c is an integer from 2 to about 6; n is an integer 0 or 1; and each of R_1, R_2, R_3, R_4, R_5, R_6, R_7, R_8, R_9, R_{10}, R_{11} and R_{12} are, independently, hydrogen or alkyl of 1 to about 6 carbons; with the proviso that when n is 0, at least one of R_3, R_4, R_5, and R_6 is alkyl of 1 to about 6 carbons, and when n is 1, at least one of R_3, R_4, R_5, R_6, R_7 and R_8 is alkyl of 1 to about 6 carbons.

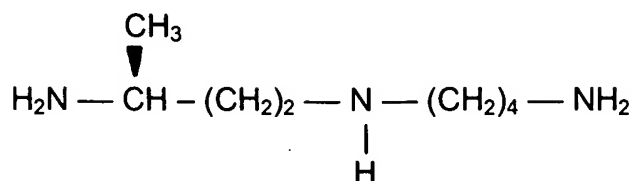2. (Original) A method according to claim 1 wherein a is 3, b is 4, and n is 0.

3. (Original) A method according to claim 2 wherein each of R_3, R_4, R_5, and R_6 is, independently, hydrogen or methyl.

4. (Original) A method according to claim 3 wherein the compound of formula I has the formula

$$R_2R_1N - \underset{\underset{}{\overset{\overset{CH_3}{|}}{CH}}}{} - (CH_2)_2 - \underset{\underset{R_{10}}{|}}{N} - (CH_2)_4 - N - NR_9R_{11}$$
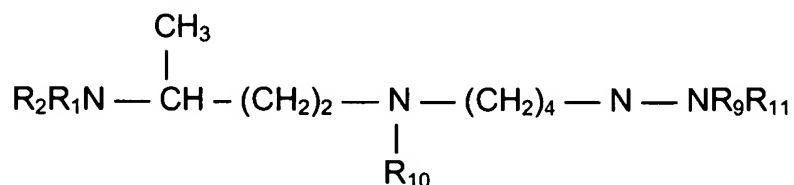
5. (Original) A method according to claim 4 wherein each of R_1, R_2, R_9, R_{10} and R_{11} is hydrogen.

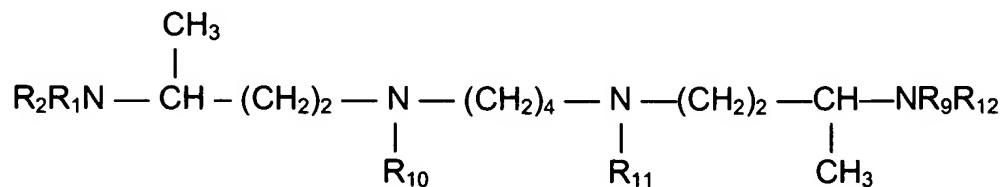6. (Withdrawn) A method according to claim 5 wherein the compound of formula

I has the formula

$$H_2N - CH - (CH_2)_2 - N - (CH_2)_4 - NH_2$$

with CH_3 attached to CH and H attached to N

7. (Withdrawn) A method according to claim 5 wherein the compound of formula

I has the formula

$$H_2N - CH - (CH_2)_2 - N - (CH_2)_4 - NH_2$$

with CH_3 attached to CH and H attached to N
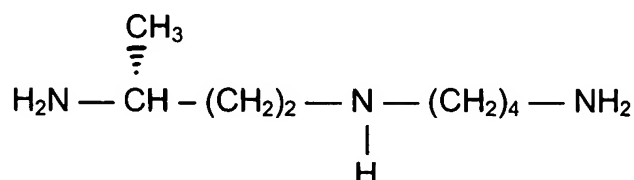
8. (Withdrawn) A method according to claim 1 wherein a is 3, b is 4, c is 3, and
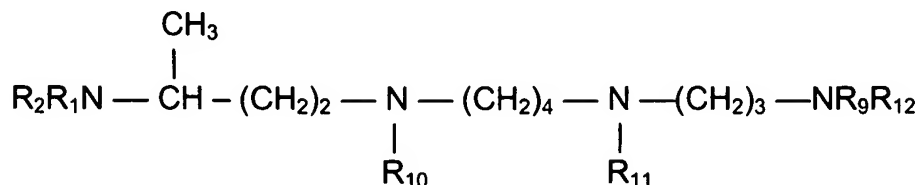
n is 1.

9. (Withdrawn) A method according to claim 8 wherein each of R_3, R_4, R_5, R_6, R_7

and R_8 is, independently, hydrogen or methyl.

10. (Withdrawn) A method according to claim 9 wherein the compound of

formula I has the formula

$$R_2R_1N - CH - (CH_2)_2 - N - (CH_2)_4 - N - (CH_2)_2 - CH - NR_9R_{12}$$

with CH_3 attached to CH, R_{10} attached to first N, R_{11} attached to second N, and CH_3 attached to final CH

11. (Withdrawn) A method according to claim 10 wherein each of R_1, R_2, R_9,

R_{10}, R_{11} and R_{12} is hydrogen.

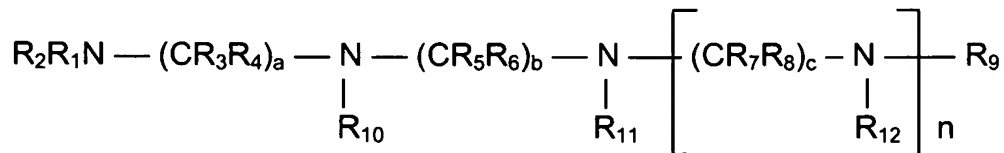12. (Withdrawn) A method according to claim 9 wherein the compound of formula I has the formula

$$R_2R_1N - \overset{\overset{\displaystyle CH_3}{|}}{CH} - (CH_2)_2 - \overset{\overset{\displaystyle}{|}}{\underset{\underset{\displaystyle R_{10}}{|}}{N}} - (CH_2)_4 - \overset{\overset{\displaystyle}{|}}{\underset{\underset{\displaystyle R_{11}}{|}}{N}} - (CH_2)_3 - NR_9R_{12}$$

13. (Withdrawn) A method according to claim 12 wherein each of R_1, R_2, R_9, R_{10}, R_{11} and R_{12} is hydrogen.

14. (Withdrawn) A method of treating or preventing pancreatitis comprising administering to a patient an effective amount of a metabolically stable analogue of spermine.

15. (Currently Amended) A method of treating ~~or preventing~~ pancreatitis comprising administering to a patient an effective amount of a ~~metabolically stable~~ <u>polyamine hydrocarbon</u> analogue of spermidine.

16. (Withdrawn) A method of inducing liver regeneration comprising administering to a patient an effective amount of a compound of formula (I):

$$R_2R_1N - (CR_3R_4)_a - \overset{\overset{\displaystyle}{|}}{\underset{\underset{\displaystyle R_{10}}{|}}{N}} - (CR_5R_6)_b - \overset{\overset{\displaystyle}{|}}{\underset{\underset{\displaystyle R_{11}}{|}}{N}} - \left[(CR_7R_8)_c - \overset{\overset{\displaystyle}{|}}{\underset{\underset{\displaystyle R_{12}}{|}}{N}} \right]_n - R_9$$

wherein:

each of a, b and c is an integer from 2 to about 6;

n is an integer 0 or 1; and

each of R_1, R_2, R_3, R_4, R_5, R_6, R_7, R_8, R_9, R_{10}, R_{11} and R_{12} are, independently, hydrogen or alkyl of 1 to about 6 carbons;

with the proviso that when n is 0, at least one of R_3, R_4, R_5, and R_6 is alkyl of 1 to about 6 carbons, and when n is 1, at least one of R_3, R_4, R_5, R_6, R_7, and R_8 is alkyl of 1 to about 6 carbons.

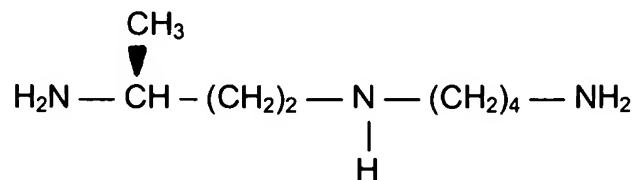17. (Withdrawn) A method according to claim 16 wherein a is 3, b is 4, and n is 0.

18. (Withdrawn) A method according to claim 17 wherein each of R_3, R_4, R_5, and R_6 is, independently, hydrogen or methyl.

19. (Withdrawn) A method according to claim 18, wherein the compound of formula I has the formula

$$
\begin{array}{c}
\text{CH}_3 \\
| \\
R_2R_1N - \text{CH} - (\text{CH}_2)_2 - \text{N} - (\text{CH}_2)_4 - \text{NR}_9R_{11} \\
| \\
R_{10}
\end{array}
$$
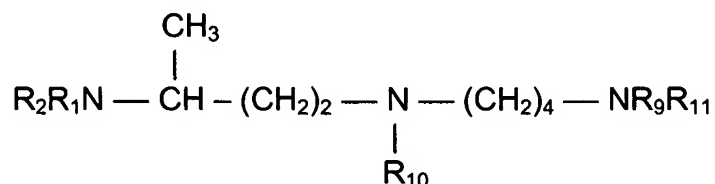
20. (Withdrawn) A method according to claim 19 wherein each of R_1, R_2, R_9, R_{10}, and R_{11} is hydrogen.

21. (Withdrawn) A method according to claim 20 wherein the compound of formula I has the formula
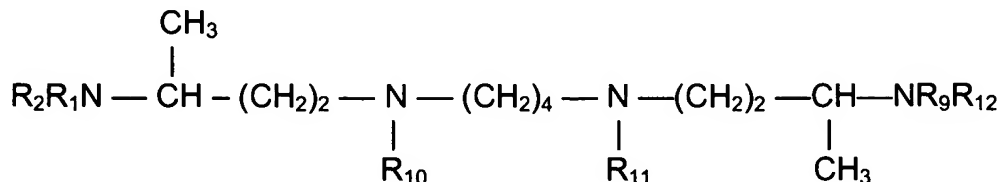
$$
\begin{array}{c}
\text{CH}_3 \\
\blacktriangledown \\
\text{H}_2\text{N} - \text{CH} - (\text{CH}_2)_2 - \text{N} - (\text{CH}_2)_4 - \text{NH}_2 \\
| \\
\text{H}
\end{array}
$$

22. (Withdrawn) A method according to claim 20 wherein the compound of formula I has the formula

$$CH_3$$
$$H_2N — CH – (CH_2)_2 — N — (CH_2)_4 — NH_2$$
$$|$$
$$H$$
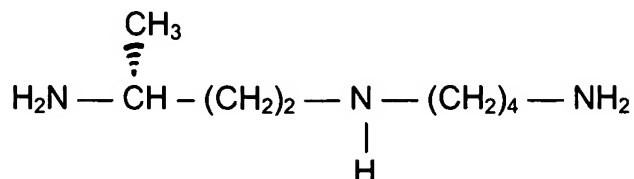
23. (Withdrawn) A method according to claim 16 wherein a is 3, b is 4, c is 3, and n is 1.
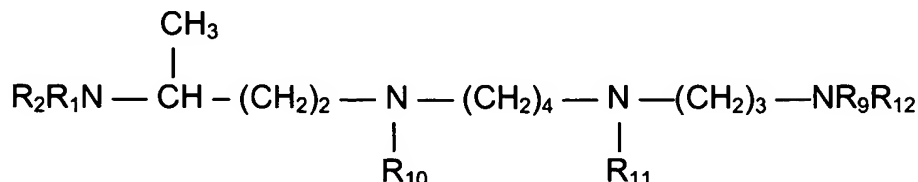
24. (Withdrawn) A method according to claim 23 wherein each of R_3, R_4, R_5, R_6, R_7 and R_8 is, independently, hydrogen or methyl.

25. (Withdrawn) A method according to claim 24 wherein the compound of formula I has the formula

$$CH_3$$
$$|$$
$$R_2R_1N — CH – (CH_2)_2 — N — (CH_2)_4 — N —(CH_2)_2 —CH—NR_9R_{12}$$
$$|\qquad\qquad\qquad|\qquad\qquad\quad|$$
$$R_{10}\qquad\qquad\quad R_{11}\qquad\qquad CH_3$$

26. (Withdrawn) A method according to claim 25 wherein each of R_1, R_2, R_9, R_{10}, R_{11} and R_{12} is hydrogen.

27. (Withdrawn) A method according to claim 24 wherein the compound of formula I has the formula

$$CH_3$$
$$|$$
$$R_2R_1N — CH – (CH_2)_2 — N — (CH_2)_4 — N —(CH_2)_3 —NR_9R_{12}$$
$$|\qquad\qquad\qquad|$$
$$R_{10}\qquad\qquad\quad R_{11}$$

28. (Withdrawn) A method according to claim 27 wherein each of R_1, R_2, R_9, R_{10}, R_{11} and R_{12} is hydrogen.

29. (Withdrawn) A method of inducing liver regeneration comprising administering to a patient an effective amount of a metabolically stable analogue of spermine.

30. (Withdrawn) A method of inducing liver regeneration comprising administering to a patient an effective amount of a metabolically stable analogue of spermidine.

31. (New) A method of treating pancreatitis comprising administering to a patient an alkylated analog of spermidine selected from the group consisting of methylspermidine, 1-methylspermidine, α-methylspermidine, and N^1-acetylspermidine.